

## ***Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2008*** **Hope Alive, Inc.**

PWSID # 0100213

June 19, 2009

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is one (1) well which draws from an underground aquifer whose name is unknown.

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

A source water assessment plan that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination has been prepared. This plan is available at the Frederick County Public Library or from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Missy Miller at (301) 241-4005. We want our residents to be informed about their water.

Hope Alive, Inc. routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Action Level* - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal* - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

| <b>TEST RESULTS</b>   |               |                |                  |      |        |   |
|---|---------------|----------------|------------------|------|--------|---|
| Contaminant   | Violation Y/N | Level Detected | Unit Measurement | MCLG | MCL    | Likely Source of Contamination  |
| <b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides</b> |               |                |                  |      |        |   |
| Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (2007)   | N             | 0.9            | ppb              | 0    | 6      | Discharge from rubber and chemical factories  |
| <b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>   |               |                |                  |      |        |   |
| Fluoride (2007)   | N             | 0.28           | ppm              | 4    | 4      | Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Copper (Distribution)   | N             | 0.28           | ppm              | 1.3  | AL=1.3 | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives                    |
| Lead (Distribution)   | N             | 9              | ppb              | 0    | AL=15  | Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits  |
| Nitrate (as Nitrogen)   | N             | 5              | ppm              | 10   | 10     | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits                               |
| <b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>   |               |                |                  |      |        |   |
| Alpha emitters (2007)   | N             | 2              | pCi/l            | 0    | 15     | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| Combined radium (226 & 228) (2007)  | N             | 0.2            | pCi/l            | 0    | 5      | Erosion of natural deposits   |
| <b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>   |               |                |                  |      |        |   |
| Sodium (2007)   | N             | 6.5            | ppm              | N/A  | N/A    | Erosion of natural deposits   |

Note: Test results are for year 2008 or as otherwise indicated; all contaminants are not required to be tested for annually.

We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. Our system is required to collect one routine sample per month for bacteria. We failed to collect this sample for the month of January, 2008 which caused us to receive a monitoring violation. Our system was returned to compliance after sampling was completed in February. This did not pose a threat to the quality of our water supply as test results from months both prior to and following were negative for the presence of bacteria. Period of the violation was from January 1<sup>st</sup> thru January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

We also received a reporting violation in 2008 for failure to complete this annual water quality report by the due date of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our system was returned to compliance after the report was received by MDE.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Hope Alive, Inc. is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

**Nitrates:** As a precaution we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water,

may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Please call our office if you have questions about this report.